

CLAIMS

1. A method of treating finished garments comprising cellulosic material so as to cause cross-linking, which comprises the step of treating fabrics with an effective amount of a blocked cross-linking agent for cellulose, said cross-linking agent being thermally activated.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein, when activated, the cross linking agent is capable of reacting with the hydroxy groups of the cellulosic material to form an ester linkage as hereinbefore defined.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the cross linking agent comprises a blocked polycarboxylic acid.
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the polycarboxylic acid is blocked by esterification with an electron-withdrawing alcohol or imide to form a polyester.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the polycarboxylic acid is succinic acid, butyl tetra carboxylic acid (BTCA), 3,6-dioxaoctanedioic acid, tartaric acid, mucic acid, glutamic acid, methylamino diacetic acid, or nitriloacetic acid.

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6. A method according to claim 4 wherein the blocking alcohol or imide comprises one or more of:

a) trichlorophenol,

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b) isoeuginol,

c) menthol,

10 d) 4-cyanophenol,

e) ethyl salicylate,

f) 2,6-dimethoxy phenol,

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g) 4-aminophenol,

h) dimethylamino phenol, and,

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i) N-hydroxysuccinimide.

7. A method according to claim 4 wherein the blocking alcohol is odiferous.

25 8. A method according to claim 4 wherein the polyester comprises one or more of:

a) the trichlorophenol diester of succinic acid,

30 b) the trichlorophenol diester of BTCA,

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- c) the N-hydroxysuccinimide diester of succinic acid,
- d) the isoeugenol diester of succinic acid, and,
- 5 e) the menthol diester of succinic acid.

9. A method according to claim 2 wherein the cross linking agent comprises a blocked isocyanate.

10 10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the blocked isocyanate comprises a blocked hexamethylene diisocyanate.

11. A method according to claim 9 wherein the blocking group is a moiety of one or more of:

- a) Meldrum's Acid,
- b) Phenol,
- 20 c) 4-Nitrophenol,
- d) 4-Methoxyphenol,
- 25 e) Methyl Salicylate,
- f) diethyl malonate,
- g) succinimide and/or
- 30 h) sodium bisulphite.

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12. A method according to claim 1 which further comprises the step of heat curing the cellulosic material.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein heat treatment 5 is performed at a temperature of from 50 to 250C, more preferably at a temperature of from 100-200C.

14. A method accord to claim 1 wherein the cross-linking agent has a molecular weight below 1500 Dalton.

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15. A composition for use in the method of any of the preceding claims which comprises an effective amount of a blocked cross-linking agent for cellulose, said cross-linking agent being thermally activated.

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16. A composition according to claim 15 further comprising a textile compatible carrier.

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17. A composition according to claim 16 wherein the textile compatible carrier comprises a surfactant.

18. A composition according to claim 15, packaged in the form of a spray.

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